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Sent: 2/2/2021 4:00:03 PM
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Subject: FW: R7 OPA Daily Clippings - 2/2/21

Editorial on AltEn

From: Bryan, David <Bryan.David@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 9:29 AM
To: R7 Senior Staff <R7_Senior_Staff@epa.gov>
Subject: R7 OPA Daily Clippings - 2/2/21

R7 IN THE NEWS

Omaha World-Herald - Editorial: State must draw key lessons in wake of Mead ethanol plant's environmental concerns – 2/2/21 - The environmental concerns about the AltEn ethanol plant in Mead underscore the importance of appropriate regulation and provide important lessons for Nebraska. <http://bit.ly/3ct3vvQ>

REGIONAL

The Daily Iowan (University of Iowa, Iowa City - Iowa City environmentalist say U.S. re-entry into the Paris Climate Agreement a first step – 2/1/21 - President Joe Biden announced a plan to re-enter the Paris Climate Accord, which former President Trump formally left on Nov. 4. <http://bit.ly/39C5A6O>

Aberdeen (IA) News - Poll indicates Iowa farmers' beliefs on climate change are shifting – 1/29/21 - Climate change is impacting Iowa agriculture and negative impacts are expected to increasingly threaten agricultural productivity in the state. There are many ways, however, that farmers and landowners can increase the resiliency of production systems, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and even capture carbon. <http://bit.ly/2MsLkvt>

Des Moines Register - Madison County puts effective ban on new wind energy development as storm over turbines continues – 2/2/21 - The battle over wind turbines continues to rage in Iowa's Madison County, where supervisors have approved restrictions on wind and solar development that opponents say strip landowners of their rights and jeopardize new and existing renewable energy projects. <http://bit.ly/3cxQf9a>

Hiawatha (KS) World - Kansas Senate bill would limit local government's ability to retire fossil fuels – 2/1/21 - Cities would not be able to ban natural gas as an energy source under a bill being considered in the Kansas Senate. Environmental organizations say the bill could slow a transition to renewable energy, while supporters say measure would help keep Kansas electric rates low. <http://bit.ly/2MPzbAx>

KCUR Kansas City Public Radio - Attempts To Reverse Trump's USDA Agency Changes Would Be Difficult – 2/1/21 - President Biden has been signing executive orders to reverse Trump administration policies, but some parts of Trump's legacy won't be easy to reverse. For example, research into food and farming took a major hit during the Trump years. Here's Frank Morris of member station KCUR. <http://bit.ly/3cv5RKF>

TRANSITION 2021

Politico - Biden's \$30B agriculture arsenal – 2/1/21 - The Biden administration is poring over its options for using USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to quickly launch its ambitious food and farm agenda without relying on appropriations from a closely divided Congress. <http://politi.co/2L9GkLE>

Mother Jones - Three Big Questions the Senate Agriculture Committee Needs to Ask Tom Vilsack – 2/2/21 - Why agrichemical corporations love Biden's ag secretary pick—and sustainable farming and racial-justice advocates don't. <http://bit.ly/3oAZCY4>

AP - Biden's climate steps could have big impact on energy firms – 2/2/21 - President Joe Biden has put his team to work reviewing dozens of actions taken by former President Donald Trump, aiming to reverse orders that he says harm the environment or endanger public health. <http://bit.ly/39C3JIm>

Washington Post - With hunger surging and farms in crisis, Biden's controversial USDA nominee lays out his plans – 2/2/21 - If confirmed, Tom Vilsack will reprise his role at Agriculture — this time amid pressure to address racial injustice, climate change and the pandemic. <http://wapo.st/39FquBQ>

Biofuels Digest - Carbon Capture Coalition submits memo to Biden's climate team for first 100 days – 2/1/21 - In Washington, the Carbon Capture Coalition has submitted a memo to President Biden's climate team, providing a targeted list of climate, energy, infrastructure, and related federal policy recommendations for the first 100 days of the new administration and 117th Congress. <http://bit.ly/2MKcMVA>

Brownfield Ag News - What's on the horizon for EPA – 2/1/21 - A DC-based consulting firm principal says the EPA will be challenged to help meet the administration's ambitious climate goals in addition to its other regulatory obligations. <http://bit.ly/39CcdWF>

Brownfield Ag News – Rebuild Rural says scope of needed investment is staggering – 2/1/21 - A coalition of more than 250 state and national ag and rural groups are urging President Biden to make rural infrastructure a priority in his Build Back Better in Rural America plan. <http://bit.ly/3rjvP8b>

Brownfield Ag News – Biden Issues EO Directing USDA To Gather Farmer Input For Climate Policies – 2/1/21 - President Biden recently issued an executive order instructing USDA to gather input from farmers and ranchers on climate-related federal policy. American Farm Bureau president

Zippy Duvall says he appreciates that the new administration is seeking input from agriculture.
<http://bit.ly/2YzZo99>

CORONAVIRUS

KSNW Ch. Wichita KS - Coronavirus in Kansas: 30 more deaths, 16,669 more vaccinations – 2/1/21 - The number of Kansas deaths linked to COVID-19 is up by 30 since Friday. The new death toll is 3,809. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) also says another 1,983 Kansans have tested positive for the coronavirus. <http://bit.ly/3cAa2oC>

FUELS

Biofuels International - Skor: New opportunities on the horizon for biofuels – 2/1/21 - On working with the Biden Administration, Growth Energy CEO Emily Skor said: "But President Biden will need to act swiftly and boldly to meet the current challenges facing rural communities. If he is successful, it will send an unmistakable signal that we have a sincere partner in the White House."
<http://bit.ly/3jIHcK5>

Brownfield Ag News – Is Ethanol A Silver Bullet For Auto Makers – 2/1/21 - An alternative fuels expert says ethanol is the answer for auto makers looking to combat climate change.
<http://bit.ly/2Yz0XEa>

Feed And Grain - Biden Climate Goals Will Boost Ethanol for Now – 2/1/21 - The Biden administration has signaled climate issues as one of its priorities. According to a report at The Wall Street Journal, new leadership at the EPA will be in charge of determining blending obligations for 2021, which the previous administration didn't set by the Nov. 30 deadline. <http://bit.ly/3pTFxgU>

Wall Street Journal -Biden's Climate Goals Will Boost Ethanol for Now | Oil refiners and ethanol producers' collective pain hasn't done much to align their interests –1/28/21 - In the tug of war for former President Donald Trump's favors, oil refiners won some surprising victories over ethanol producers. Their fortunes are about to flip under President Joe Biden's climate-driven administration.
<http://on.wsj.com/3czFG5G>

NATIONAL

Washington Post - Judge throws out Trump rule limiting what science EPA can use – 2/1/21 - Biden officials had asked the Montana federal judge to send back the Environmental Protection Agency rule limiting studies behind public health safeguards. <http://wapo.st/2YAPJPJ>

The Hill – Opinion: Environmentalists should lead the charge against electric vehicles – 2/1/21 - If you want to protect the environment and really care about human rights and the poor, stop investing in plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs). <http://bit.ly/3rg2ziA>

Lexology - The EPA's Clean Power Plan is Only Mostly Dead – 2/1/21 - The Obama administration's Clean Power Plan — an unprecedented use of the Clean Air Act to regulate

greenhouse gas emissions from power plants — is only “mostly dead” and could soon spring back to life. <http://bit.ly/2YFy6Oo>

The Hill – Opinion: Electronic waste in the US is changing – 2/1/21 - As products get replaced faster and repaired less, electronics are also finding their way into our trash, prompting some to call electronic waste (e-waste) the fastest growing waste stream in the world. <http://bit.ly/3j8gu7x>

The Hill – Opinion: The Biden administration needs an energy reality check – 2/2/21 - The Biden administration needs an energy reality check. Though renewables such as wind and solar are making inroads, oil and gas will remain America’s — and the world’s — primary energy sources for at least the next 30 years. <http://bit.ly/3jbOKPI>

The Hill – Opinion: Bridging the rural divide – 2/1/21 - The deep divide between rural and urban communities is a polarization that has been exemplified by coronavirus, climate change and economic despair. <http://bit.ly/2MR1a2P>

ENN - Failed Storage Tanks Pose Atmospheric Risks During Disasters – 2/1/21 - When aboveground storage tanks fail during a storm and their toxic contents spread, the threat to human health can and probably will flow downwind of the immediate area. <http://bit.ly/3rdoxCB>

ENN - Getting the Message Right on Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change – 2/1/21 - Nature-based solutions can play a key role in helping to tackle the climate and nature crises, while delivering other benefits for people, according to a new paper today from the Nature-based Solutions Initiative (NbSI) at the University of Oxford. <https://bit.ly/3oGeog8>

Smart Water Magazine - Flagship water recycling technology delivers cash savings – 2/1/21 - A next-generation water recycling system, unveiled by water infrastructure systems specialist SDS, is promising to boost business sector efforts to save water by offering significantly improved investment returns for commercial developers and operators. <https://bit.ly/3rjxQ4f>

AP - Officials say oil well spill caused by equipment failure – 2/1/21 - North Dakota energy officials said Monday that 2,100 gallons of oil and 12,600 gallons of produced water released at a well near Parshall has been recovered. <http://bit.ly/3atUDmP>

Bloomberg Law – PFAS Resolutions Overwhelmingly Approved by Firefighters’ Union – 2/1/21 - Members of the International Association of Fire Fighters voted last week to cut financial ties with gear makers due to concerns that the garments contain high levels of PFAS, so-called “forever chemicals,” that some fear have led to increasing cancer rates in the fire service. <https://bit.ly/3tmmyxZ>

Bloomberg Law – White House Environmental Council Hires Professor as Top Lawyer – 2/1/21 - A law professor and former government lawyer will serve as the top legal official for the White House Council on Environmental Quality. <https://bit.ly/3oGOHfw>

Bloomberg Law – Exxon Makes \$3 Billion Carbon Capture Vow After Climate Pressure – 2/1/21

- Exxon Mobil Corp. pledged to spend \$3 billion on low-emission technologies through 2025 after being criticized by activist investors for its environmental record. <https://bit.ly/3atY90v>

Bloomberg Law – Pipeline Ruling Bolsters Environmental Standard Trump Erased – 2/2/21 - A

federal court ruling on the Dakota Access pipeline boosts an environmental review standard that could be wielded against all kinds of other projects—if Trump-era regulatory moves don't get in the way. <https://bit.ly/3czNW5C>

Bloomberg Law – Top Environment Appropriator Aims to Direct Biden Climate Agenda – 2/2/21

- The new head of the panel overseeing funds for the Interior Department and the Environmental Protection Agency is planning to use the annual spending process to advance Democrats' agenda on protecting the environment and addressing climate change. <https://bit.ly/3oKLNx4>

Bloomberg Law – SEC's Lee Names Agency's First Senior Adviser for Climate, ESG – 2/1/21 - SEC

Acting Chair Allison Lee has named Satyam Khanna the agency's first-ever senior policy adviser for climate and environmental, social, and governance, underscoring the elevation of ESG issues at the Democrat-led agency. <https://bit.ly/2MPilrj>

Inside EPA - UCS analysis says staff departures weakened EPA's 'scientific capacity' – 2/1/21 -

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) in a new analysis says EPA's staff losses during the Trump administration have diminished its "scientific capacity" needed to implement TSCA and other laws. <http://bit.ly/2O1hChJ>

Inside EPA – Little-Used TSCA Data-Gathering Power Could Boost EPA Asbestos Review –

2/1/21 - Warning that the "good days are over," an industry attorney is predicting that the Biden EPA will respond to last month's landmark court ruling ordering the agency to require companies to report uses or imports of asbestos by invoking a little-used TSCA authority to gather data on asbestos and possibly a host of other high-priority chemicals. <http://bit.ly/3aq6lit>

Inside EPA – NAS Launches Discussions On Public Health Impacts From Agriculture – 1/29/21 -

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has launched an interdisciplinary discussion about how to reduce the human health impacts from excess nitrogen that comes from agriculture, raising questions about how to adapt farming practices to reduce nitrate in drinking water. <http://bit.ly/3telyf3>

Inside EPA – NRDC sues EPA over missed SDWA rule deadline – 2/1/21 -

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is suing EPA to force the agency to revise a rule intended to make it easier for drinking water customers to understand annual reports on the levels of contaminants found in their water, after the Trump administration missed a statutory deadline for making the changes. <http://bit.ly/3ol95wE>

Inside EPA – Pingree vows EPA 'rebuilding' as House appropriations panel chair – 2/1/21 - Rep.

Chellie Pingree (D-ME), who leads the House Appropriations Committee panel that oversees the budgets for EPA and the Interior Department (DOI), is vowing to pursue "rebuilding" both agencies

that she fears lost vast numbers of staff “and functionality” during the Trump administration.

<http://bit.ly/3jIXh7>

Inside EPA – Biden cancels last-minute Trump rescissions to EPA’s budget – 2/1/21 - President Joe Biden has cancelled 11th-hour rescissions former President Donald Trump made to EPA and other agencies’ budgets. In a [Jan. 31 letter](#) to the leaders of the House and Senate, Biden said that in accordance with the 1974 Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act, he is “withdrawing 73 proposed rescissions previously transmitted to the Congress.” The withdrawals are for EPA and a host of other departments and agencies. <http://bit.ly/3cvhpO1>

Inside EPA – IPI outlines steps for EPA to bolster climate-related equity analyses – 2/1/21 - The Institute for Policy Integrity (IPI) at New York University School of Law is out with a new report aimed at helping EPA and other federal agencies improve climate-related environmental justice (EJ) analyses, in line with a new executive order (EO) from President Joe Biden seeking to elevate both issues. <http://bit.ly/2MjElzP>

Inside EPA – Biden Goal To Issue New Paris GHG Goal By April Seen As Tight, Doable – 2/1/21 - Experts are framing the Biden administration’s goal of announcing a new national target to cut greenhouse gases by April as a tight but doable timeline needed to show U.S re-engagement in international climate talks, with significant outside analysis and EPA modeling tools likely to help inform the target. <https://bit.ly/3apn6u8>

Inside EPA – Municipal Water Utilities Launch Campaign For Federal Affordability Help – 2/2/21 - Municipally owned wastewater and drinking water utilities are urging the Biden administration and Congress to address a trio of interrelated concerns affecting water affordability and sustainability, launching a new campaign to press for permanent low-income customer assistance, increased EPA water infrastructure funding, and COVID-19 relief. <http://bit.ly/3jckLa8>

Inside EPA – Judge Grants Biden EPA Request To Vacate Trump-Era Science Policy – 2/1/21 - A federal district judge has granted the Biden EPA’s request to vacate a Trump-era policy on the agency’s use of scientific studies, following an earlier court decision that both stayed the controversial policy until Feb. 5 and removed the legal basis for the rulemaking by declaring it substantive rather than procedural. <http://bit.ly/39DBmjU>

Inside EPA – Refiners, Biofuels Groups Battle Over EPA’s 2020 RFS Production Goals – 2/1/21 - Refiners and biofuels groups are sparring in legal briefs over whether the Trump EPA’s renewable fuel standard (RFS) production goals for 2020 were too low or too high, in a case that poses significant implications for the Biden administration’s approach to setting RFS volumes for future compliance years. <http://bit.ly/3cAfrvB>

Inside EPA – Environmentalists’ Lawsuits Target Trump EPA TSCA Evaluations – 2/1/21 - Federal appeals courts are weighing a growing series of lawsuits filed by environmentalists and public health groups over the Trump EPA’s TSCA chemical evaluations, setting the stage for opponents of the last administration to push the agency to tighten those assessments both on its own initiative and through litigation. <http://bit.ly/36zem3F>

Inside EPA – DOJ Settlement Including SEP Signals Biden Could Reverse Trump Ban – 2/1/21 -

One of the first legal settlements the Biden Justice Department (DOJ) has signed includes a supplemental environmental project (SEP), a popular tool that had long enjoyed bipartisan support until the Trump administration largely banned them last year, signaling a potential reversal of that ban. <http://bit.ly/3oGnQA8>

Inside EPA – Ross Says Long-Term Focus Shaped Water Policies During Trump EPA – 2/1/21 -

Trump EPA water chief Dave Ross says many of the major policy initiatives he pursued while at the agency focused on the long-term impacts of taking a holistic approach to water management and seeking to ensure the water sector workforce is secure, while noting the work of career staff in promulgating a large number of rules. <http://bit.ly/2LaBeyL>